

AMETISTINA SCHINZ, 1825 (GASTROPODA, FAMILY JANTHINIDAE): REQUEST FOR SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1894

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Schinz (1825 : 586), in a German edition of Cuvier's "Le Règne Animal", erected the genus-group name *Ametistina* in the bald statement "*Ametistina* Lam. *Janthina*", in a list of generic names that apparently represent the divisions (recognized at that time) of Linnaeus' genera of Mollusca; i.e. *Ametistina* is listed under *Helix*. Thus as first erected, the name must be interpreted as a genus *caelebs*, and if available may later have species placed in it.

2. There is doubt about the availability of the name *Ametistina* as first erected; it could be interpreted as erected in the synonymy of *Janthina*, and thus (following the Code, Article 11d) would not be available if Wenz (1940 : 816) had not placed a species in it and used it as a valid name (see Paragraph 8).

3. Herrmannsen (1852 : 6) listed the name as: "*Ametistina* 'Lamck.' Schinz 1825 Cuv. Thierr. IV 586, err. pro *Janthina*", but such a markedly different spelling as *Ametistina* cannot be a simple error for *Janthina*. It is more likely that Schinz used a manuscript name of Lamarck's.

4. Mörch (1860 : 261) appears to have been the first subsequent taxonomist to mention the name *Ametistina*; he stated in the introduction to his review of the Janthinidae, "Plusieur auteurs ont cru devoir changer le nom générique et l'ont appelé *Amethistina* (Schintz [sic], 1825), *Jodes* (Leach) *Achates* (Gistel)." He thus introduced an incorrect subsequent spelling, which has no status in nomenclature (Code, Article 33b). He did not use the name in the body of the work, and it cannot be construed that any species were placed in *Ametistina* by this brief mention.

5. Schaufuss (1869 : 2) listed a second incorrect subsequent spelling, "*Amethystina*" Schinz, as a synonym of *Janthina* "Bolten" [Röding], and on p. 25 listed *Janthina communis* Lamarck, *J. exigua* Lamarck, *J. prolongata* Blainville, and *J. striolata* Carpenter as species of *Janthina* (i.e. the species present in the collection of Franz Paetel). The Code (Article 11d) states that names first published as synonyms are not nomenclaturally available, and further states (Article 16b) that citation of a name in synonymy does not constitute an indication. Thus, following the spirit of the Code expressed by these Articles, the placing of species in a genus (in this case *Janthina*) when other names are listed in its synonymy (in this case, "*Jodes* Leach" and "*Amethystina*" Schinz) should presumably not be considered to constitute the allocation of the species to the synonymised genus-group names, especially as *Ametistina* is wrongly spelled in this case.

6. The next mention of *Ametistina* was by Paetel (1875 : 8) who, in a catalogue of family- and genus-group names in the Mollusca, stated: "*Amethistina* Lm. . . ist *Janthina* Bolt." and "*Amethystina* Schinz . . . ist *Amethistina* Lm.". He did not list any species. This was cited as the first intro-

duction of the incorrect subsequent spelling *Amethistina* by Neave (1939), but Mörch (1860) had used the spelling 15 years earlier (Paragraph 4).

7. Later Paetel (1888 : 1) listed "*Amethistina* Schinz" in his index of genera, and on p. 13 of the main work he listed "*Jodes* Leach", "*Amethistina*" Schinz, and *Achates* Gistel as synonyms of *Janthina* "Bolt." [Röding]. He further listed 31 valid species and varieties of *Janthina* and 18 names that he considered to be synonyms of valid ones. However, as with Schaufuss' catalogue, the spirit of the Code seems to imply that this should not be taken to constitute placing of species in "*Jodes*", "*Amethistina*", or *Achates*.

8. The most recent mention of *Ametistina* was by Wenz (1940 : 816), who listed "*Amethistina* Mörch, 1860" and designated *Janthina pallida* "Harvey" as its type species. *Amethistina* was listed among six subgenera of *Janthina*, of which Wenz (loc. cit. : 815) stated: "Die 'Subgenera' [sind] wohl ohne Wert, zumal die abgrenzung der Arten kaum feststeht" (i.e. the subgenera [are] probably of no value, particularly as the limits of the species are hardly defined). Thus although he did not synonymise the subgenera, Wenz obviously thought they were meaningless. Nevertheless, Wenz appears to have been the first person validly to place a species in *Ametistina*, and he designated a type-species for it and used it as the valid senior synonym for a "subgenus". His is the only citation that prevents the name from being available for designation by the Commission as a *nomen oblitum*, as the name does not otherwise appear in modern literature on the Janthinidae.

9. In view of the highly unsatisfactory nature of the erection of *Ametistina*, of the fact that it has been used validly only once since its erection, of the fact that it is not currently used in molluscan nomenclature, and of the fact that the name *Iodina* Mörch, 1860, is presently correctly used for the oviparous species of *Janthina* to which *Ametistina* would apply if it were valid, it seems best for the name to be suppressed.

10. Therefore, in the interests of stability of nomenclature, the Commission is asked:

- (i) to use its plenary powers to suppress the genus-group name *Ametistina* Schinz, 1825 (type-species, by subsequent designation by Wenz, 1940, *Janthina pallida* "Harvey" = *Janthina pallida* Thomson, 1840) for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (ii) to place the genus-group name *Iodina* Mörch, 1860 (type-species, by subsequent designation by Wenz, 1940, *Janthina exigua* Lamarck, [1816] on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (iii) to place the following species-group names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *pallida* "Harvey MS" Thomson, 1840, (: 96) as published in the binomen *Janthina pallida*;
 - (b) *exigua* Lamarck, [1816], (pl. 456) as published in the binomen *Janthina exigua* (type-species of *Iodina* Mörch, 1860);
- (iv) to place the generic name suppressed under the plenary powers in (i) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

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